



# News Release

**For release:** Immediately

**Contact:** Mike McLaughlin, 785-251-6880

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## **Terry Bertels to retire after 33-year career in parks and recreation**

TOPEKA, KAN -- In his 33-year career, Terry Bertels' hand has touched much of what stands today as Shawnee County Parks + Recreation. Having announced his retirement, Bertels will work his final day with SCP+R on Nov. 9.

As former City of Topeka Parks Director, Bertels expanded hiking/biking trails, built a state of the art greenhouse in Gage Park, an art wall in Aaron Douglas Art Park, added a building to Old Prairie Town/Ward-Meade Historic Site, renovated numerous playgrounds, hosted national sports tournaments, oversaw special events including the Senior Olympics and Sunflower Games, and added ADA improvements to parks. As deputy director of SCP+R, he managed the development and construction of the \$9.2 million Midwest Health Aquatic Center and \$1.25 million in renovations of Dornwood Park -- completely rebuilding two baseball/softball fields and adding a spray park to serve an underserved area of the community. The water slides at the aquatic center rank in the top 10-15 percent of municipal water slides.

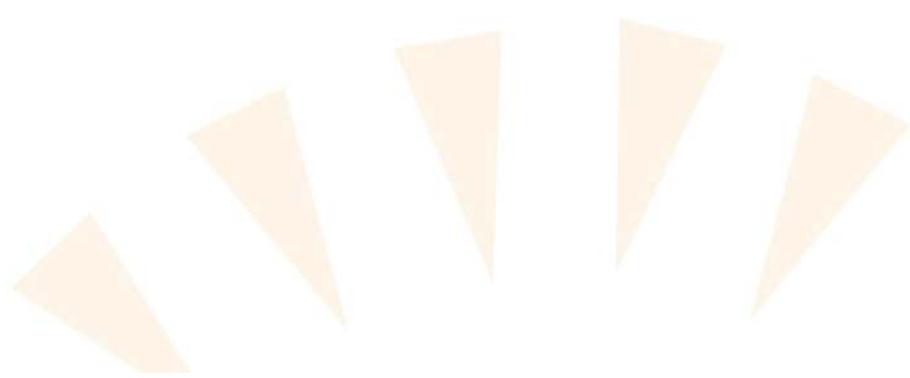
In 2012, Bertels played a critical role in the consolidation of the City of Topeka and Shawnee County parks and recreation departments as he moved from his role as director of the City of Topeka Parks and Recreation Department to his new position as deputy director for properties, planning and assets for Shawnee County Parks + Recreation. Bertels helped lead the process of consolidation and the reorganization of the newly merged departments.

In contributing to the parks and recreation profession, Bertels has hosted Kansas Recreation and Park Association conferences and assisted in the planning of a number more. He has furthered the Senior Olympics and the Sunflower State Games in Kansas. He is also appreciated for having mentored a number of co-workers who have advanced in the parks and recreation profession.

"Terry Bertels is not an attention seeker, but his integrity and his quiet, calm, competent leadership style have earned him the respect of all who deal with him," said John Knight, director,

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SCP+R. “He has a commitment to his profession and an unwavering desire to serve his peers, co-workers and the patrons of Shawnee County Parks + Recreation.”

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Shawnee County Parks + Recreation includes more than 50 miles of trails, 2,625 acres of parks and 320 annual days of sporting activities. In addition, the department offers recreation programs, educational programs and golf. A combination of tax dollars, user fees and private donations enables Shawnee County Parks + Recreation to offer parks, sporting and aquatic facilities with state-of-the-art features, and beautiful, nationally recognized gardens.

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